

To the members of the Public Health Committee:
RE: HB 5537, Section 42 (6)

As a certified Behavior Analyst for the past 32 years (first as Florida certified and then for the past 14 years as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst) I have seen a forward progression in both the training criteria of practitioners and the legal protection of students with behavioral disorders. The current BCBA certification program is in place because of the gross abuses that took place in behavioral treatment in the past due to delivery by untrained, unmonitored individuals. Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) are required to have Master's Degrees, at least six graduate courses in Applied Behavior Analysis, 1500 hours of supervised internship and the passing of a rigorous certification exam. In addition there is a system of oversight and strict Ethical Guidelines. This level of preparation and supervision is imperative in providing protections to the clients that we serve.

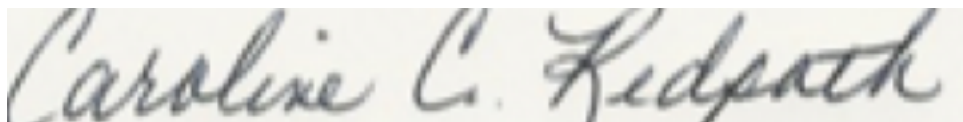
I currently practice as the team leader for the River Street School Outreach program providing in-school consultation in thirty-one school districts throughout Connecticut. In this capacity, I have the opportunity to work with many professionals including Speech Pathologists. I have great respect for the skills and expertise in Speech Therapy that they bring to the table. I rely on this expertise to work collaboratively for the best interests of the students that we serve. I would not consider myself prepared to work as a Speech Pathologist and they could not replace the expertise that I provide.

I am also a Professor in the Elms College Department of Communication Disorders. I teach two Master's Level courses in the sequence that prepares students to take the BCBA certification exam. Many of our students are Speech Pathologists who are coming back to school to get additional training in Applied Behavior Analysis. They are doing this because the preparation for Speech Pathology certification does not include intensive training in ABA.

The State of CT recognized the unique expertise of Board Certified Behavior Analysts when it passed Public Act No. 09-115 defining the scope of practice of Behavior Analysis and prescribing who can provide ABA services.

I am writing to ask you to **OPPOSE HB 5537, Section 42 (6)**. This legislation would allow speech therapists to provide services that they are not trained to provide. It would represent a step back in the protections that the legislature created in 2012. Allowing untrained individuals to deliver behavioral programming is dangerous and ineffective.

Thank you very much for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Caroline C. Redpath". The ink is dark and the background is a light, textured surface.

Caroline C. Redpath, M.S., BCBA
Board Certified Behavior Analyst

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